

Inspection of Rising Stars Wrap Around Clubs

Martins Wood Primary School, Mildmay Road, Stevenage SG1 5RT

Inspection date:

17 December 2024

**The quality and
standards of early
years provision**

**This
inspection**

Met

Previous
inspection

Not applicable

What is it like to attend this early years setting?

This provision meets requirements

Children arrive happily at the club. They independently hang up their coats and sort out their belongings before choosing what to play. Children demonstrate that they feel safe and secure. Staff are friendly and welcoming. They form close bonds with children and know precisely how to support any children who are tired and need time to relax after a busy day at school. Children find sanctuary in the cosy area and snuggle up to staff, who read them their chosen stories. Staff show a genuine interest in finding out about children's news and their day. They provide clear explanations to children's curious questions, such as the meaning of the word 'scaffolding'.

Children are incredibly confident and engage exceptionally well with staff, the inspector and one another. They chat enthusiastically to the inspector, sharing their thoughts and ideas and encouraging them to join in their play. Children talk about how much they like to attend the club. They say they 'love to play with their friends' and that the 'staff are kind'. Staff are positive role models. They adopt the same boundaries used by the host school. This supports a consistent approach, resulting in a calm and respectful atmosphere where children's behaviour is excellent. Children immerse themselves in creative activities that stimulate their imagination. They persevere to use scissors to cut recycled materials, such as cardboard tubes and plastic bottles. Children join these together to create wonderful models. This inspires children to express how they would like to be an artist when they are older.

What does the early years setting do well and what does it need to do better?

- The staff team provides an environment that is attractive and inviting. Children make independent choices of what they would like to play with from a rich range of resources. They demonstrate high levels of engagement in activities because these reflect their individual interests and needs. For example, children dedicate a significant amount of time to meticulously colouring intricate Christmas patterns on strips of paper, which they then cut out and assemble into a paper chain. Staff offer an abundance of praise for children's efforts. This increases children's self-esteem, and they show high levels of pride as they eagerly share their creations with parents and staff.
- Children of all ages form exceptionally close bonds with one another. They are kind and friendly towards each other and adults. All children have a good understanding of taking turns and cooperate well in activities. For example, older children introduce younger children to new games, such as hangman, and ensure that they have a turn at suggesting a letter that may make up the word. This also helps them to practise their knowledge of phonic sounds.

- Staff support children to adopt a healthy lifestyle. Children have access to an extensive outdoor space. There are plenty of opportunities to be active in the fresh air and take part in team games, such as football, where they develop good control and coordination of balls. Children know to follow a good hygiene routine without being reminded to do so. They benefit from a healthy afternoon snack and occasionally have opportunities to help prepare their own. Staff sit with children and engage in meaningful discussions, making this a relaxed and social occasion.
- Leaders work hard to build strong relationships with the school on site. They communicate well with class teachers to gather information about children's time at school. This helps them to continue to support their well-being and understand what they are learning in school. Generally, parents are happy with the care and range of activities their children participate in. They comment that their children talk fondly about the staff and activities. Parents receive a welcome pack when their children first begin attending that introduces them to what the club offers. They also receive a newsletter at the end of every term with a summary about the activities children have enjoyed. However, parents do not receive enough feedback on a regular basis to inform them about their child's experience at the club.
- Leaders provide a comprehensive programme for new staff, which helps them to understand their roles and responsibilities. They regularly observe staff practice and provide them with support to help continue to raise the quality of practice to the highest level. Staff benefit from regular supervision meetings to support their continual professional development effectively. Leaders provide individualised training programmes. As a result of recent training, staff have an increased understanding of how to identify the root cause of children's behaviour and implement supportive strategies.

Safeguarding

The arrangements for safeguarding are effective.

There is an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts children's interests first.

Setting details

Unique reference number	2700829
Local authority	Hertfordshire
Inspection number	10367651
Type of provision	Childcare on non-domestic premises
Registers	Early Years Register, Compulsory Childcare Register, Voluntary Childcare Register
Day care type	Out-of-school day care
Age range of children at time of inspection	4 to 11
Total number of places	40
Number of children on roll	55
Name of registered person	Rising Stars Wrap Around Clubs Limited
Registered person unique reference number	2569113
Telephone number	07974256207
Date of previous inspection	Not applicable

Information about this early years setting

Rising Stars Wrap Around Clubs registered in 2022 and is independently run. The club employs four members of childcare staff, one of whom holds an appropriate qualification at level 2. The club operates from 7.30am to 9am and 3.30pm to 6pm, Monday to Thursday, and from 7.30am to 9am and 3.30pm to 5pm on Friday, during term time. It also operates from 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday, during some school holiday periods.

Information about this inspection

Inspector
Lorraine Pike

Inspection activities

- The inspector viewed the provision and discussed the safety and suitability of the premises.
- The inspector observed the interactions between the staff and the children.
- The inspector held discussions with the staff at appropriate times during the inspection.
- The views of the children and parents spoken to on the day were taken into account.
- The inspector held a meeting with the head of settings and the settings manager.
- The inspector looked at relevant documentation and reviewed evidence of the suitability of staff working at the club.

We carried out this inspection under sections 49 and 50 of the Childcare Act 2006 on the quality and standards of provision that is registered on the Early Years Register. The registered person must ensure that this provision complies with the statutory framework for children's learning, development and care, known as the early years foundation stage.

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